GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4374
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
SETTING UP OF THERMAL POWER PROJECT BY MANGALORE POWER COMPANY
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court has directed the Government tofile a compliance report with regard to Thermal Power Project to be set up by the Mangalore Power Company;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the reports given by expert bodies in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present position thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) In Writ Petition No.790 of 1997, the observations of High Court of Karnataka in its judgement dated 29th August, 1997 are quoted as follows: -

`In the result, we conclude that none of the objections raised by the petitioners are sustainable to quash the clearance granted by the KSPCB or MOEFHowever, considering the fact that certain material is available now and could not have been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities and in as much as the project is still at the initial stages of being put through, MOEF is directed to take into consideration the report of the DANIDA, NEERI and the views expressed by Mr. Sagardhara on the projectt shall also take note of the criticism of absence of the carrying capacity study and its impact to ascertain whether such information is such as the action taken by the 7th respondent will affect the quality of human life and environment in a significant manner or extent which has not already been considered by them and decide the issues arising therein. Such action shall be taken within a period of three months from today. If the petitioners or any other interested party so desires, they may file appropriate representations to MOEF for its consideration. Unless the MOEF considers oral hearing is necessary, the same need not be extended to the petitioners or any other party.Subject to these directions, these petitions stand dismissed.`

(b)&(c)In pursuance of the Court`s judgement, assessment of DANIDA, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and Sagardhara reports was undertaken and an affidavit filed in July 1999 in Contempt of Court Case No.434/1999. The case was dismissed on 24th October, 2000.